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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/667,893	09/23/2003	Thomas E. Jenkins	3085.004	8199
7590	03/17/2005			EXAMINER
Matthew A. Pequignot Hall, Priddy, Myers & Vande Sande Ste. 200 10220 River Road Potomac, MD 20854				BARRY, CHESTER T
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1724	
				DATE MAILED: 03/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/667,893	JENKINS ET AL.
	Examiner Chester T. Barry	Art Unit 1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 February 2004.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 23 September 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Claims 3 – 4 are rejected under 35 USC Sec. 102(b) as anticipated by Stover.

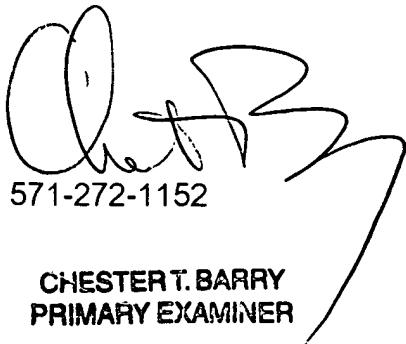
USP 6036862 to Stover describes a wastewater treatment apparatus comprising offgas sensors (O₂, CO₂, H₂S) coupled to a PLC on the basis of which offgas measurements “adjustments” are made to the flow rate of recycle effluent air to maintain, i.e., control, the process as both aerobic and thermophilic. Col 7 lines 17-19, 34-36. See also col 17 lines 25-37. Per claim 4, a dissolved oxygen probe is also described.

USP 5948260 is cited of interest.

Claims 1 – 2 are rejected under 35 USC Sec. 112(2) for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. In claim 1 step A 1, it is unclear whether a condition in which oxygen is neither an excess nor a deficiency relative to oxygen consumed by the biological process would meet the limitation of claim 1 A 1. The problematic word is “may” at claim 1 A 1 line 1. See also claim 2 A 1 line 1.

Claim 1 is objected to for failure to correctly spell “dissolved” at claim 1 a 2.

It is noted that no IDS was filed.



571-272-1152

CHESTER T. BARRY
PRIMARY EXAMINER